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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

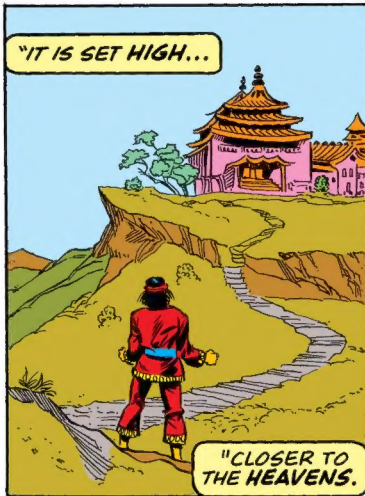
Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

STAIRWAY TO RAGE!

"HE CALLS HIMSELF **SKULL-CRUSHER**, HOPING TO DEFEAT HIS OPPONENT'S MIND WITH THE MERE SOUND OF HIS NAME.



DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / JOHN TARTAG / G. SIMEK, LETTERER / ROGER STERN / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / ARTIST / INKER / COLORIST / EDITOR / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



"IT IS SET HIGH...

"CLOSER TO THE HEAVENS.

"GOOD-- BUT FOR A REASON THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CELESTIAL POSITION.



"MY RAGE IS MOUNTING...

"... FAR BEYOND THE SEETHING CALM FELT UPON RETURNING TO THE ROCKS OF HONG KONG.

HOLD UP, CHI, OUR CONNECTION'S IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

YEAH, WHERE YA GOIN', CHINAMAN?



TO PO LIN MONASTERY.



"AND NOW, MY RAGE CONTINUES TO MOUNT...

"...WITH EACH STEP CLOSER TO PO LIN...

"... KNOWING THAT HE WAITS FOR ME, AND THAT THE KNOWLEDGE MEANT LITTLE--



"-- WEEKS AGO, ON THE BANKS OF A CHINA RIVER...



HE WILL BE AT THE PO LIN MONASTERY, OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

WHAT? BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW?



"IT MEANT LITTLE THEN, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD ALREADY TRIED TO TAKE MY LIFE TWICE-- THE SECOND TIME ON THE BANKS OF THAT RIVER...

"... AND THE FIRST TIME IN LONDON...



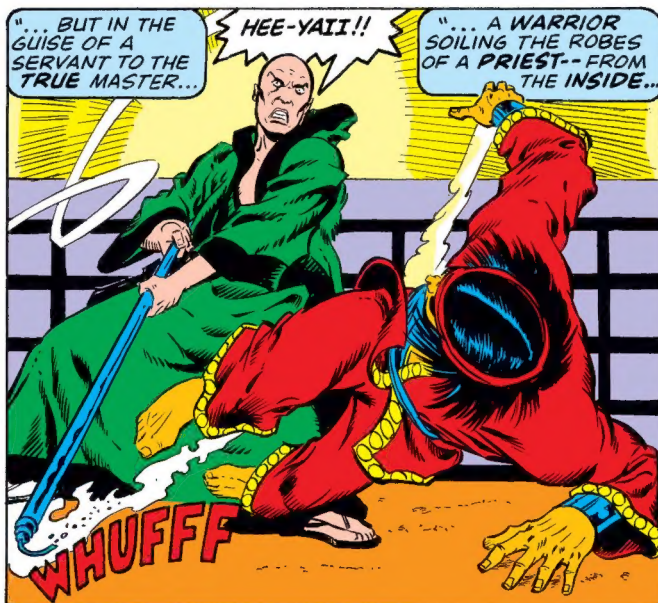
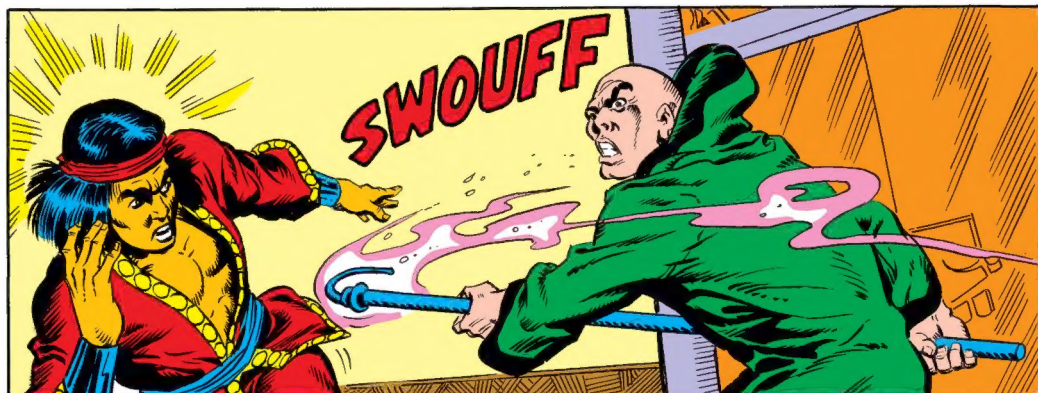
"... WHEN HE KNEW, BEFORE I DID--

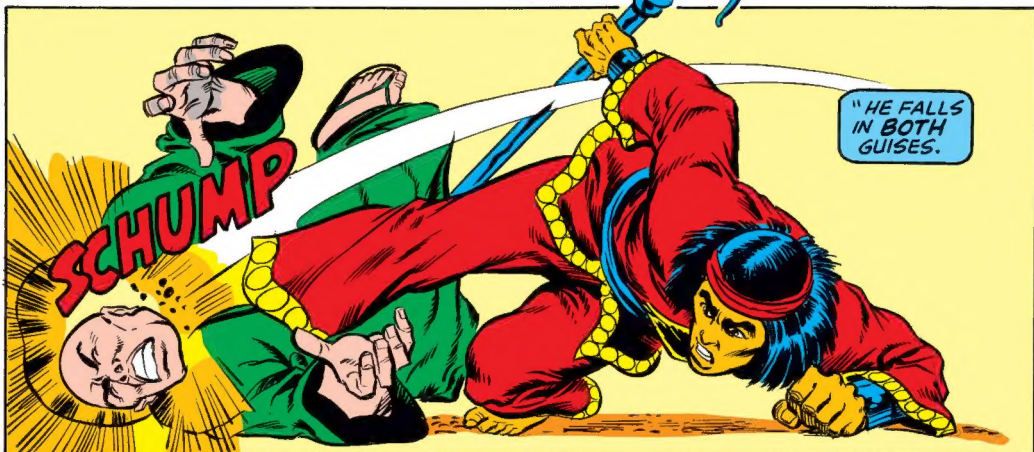
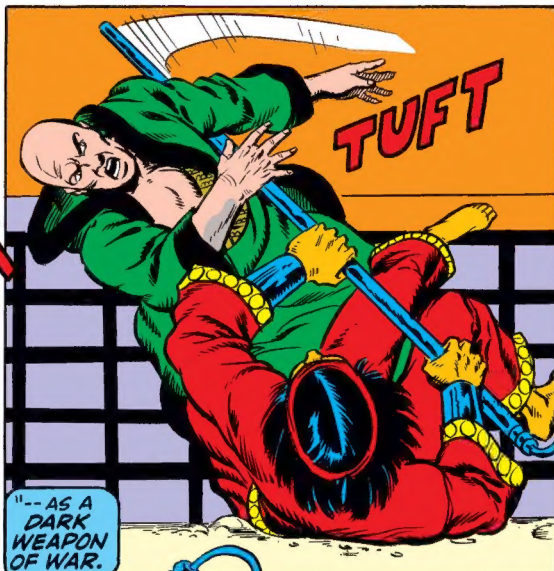
"-- THAT I WOULD BE HERE.

--MUST SLAY YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE LONDON!

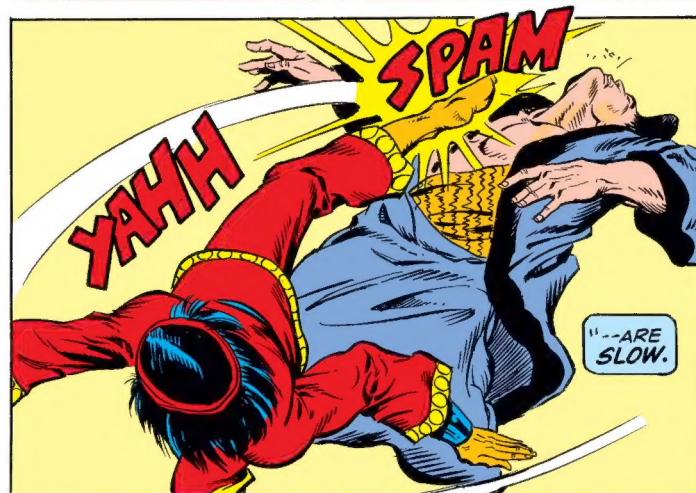




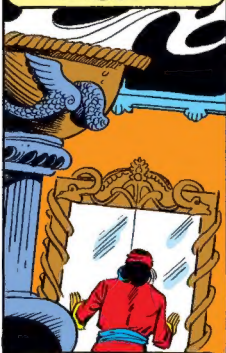








"BUT NOW THE ANGER FLARES AGAIN, LIKE FLAME SPREADING FROM HEART THROUGH LIMBS."



"BEHIND THESE DOORS I WILL FIND MORE STEPS..."

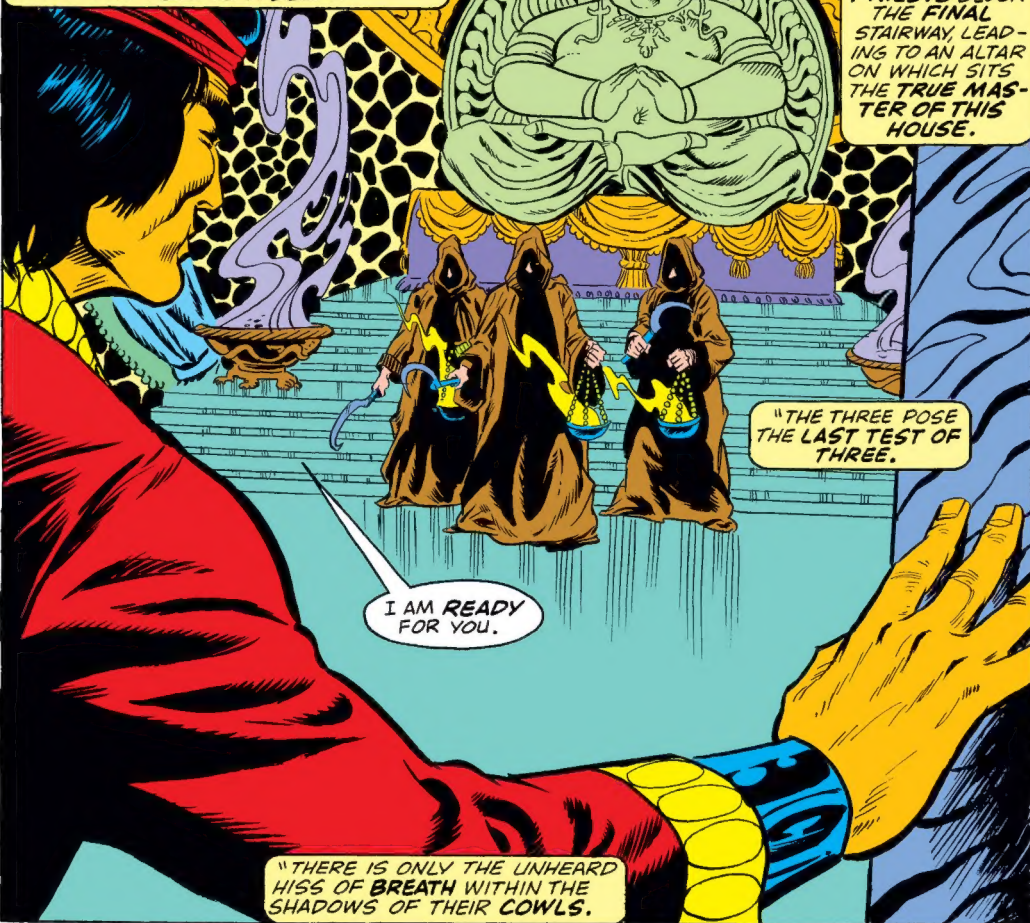
JULIETTE!



"AND SHE KNEW-- SHE KNEW-- HE WOULD NOT HARM HER..."



"AND AT THE CREST OF THESE STEPS, IN THE VERY TOP OF THIS STRUCTURE I FIND THE TEMPLE ITSELF..."

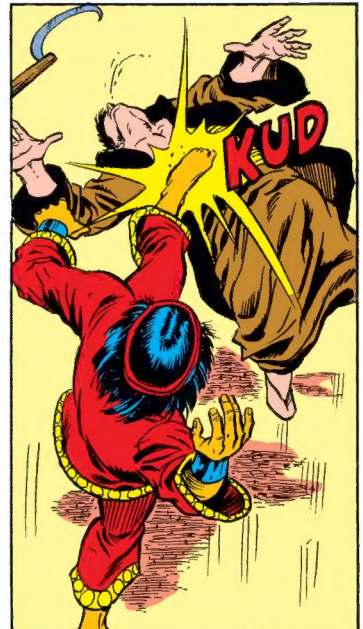
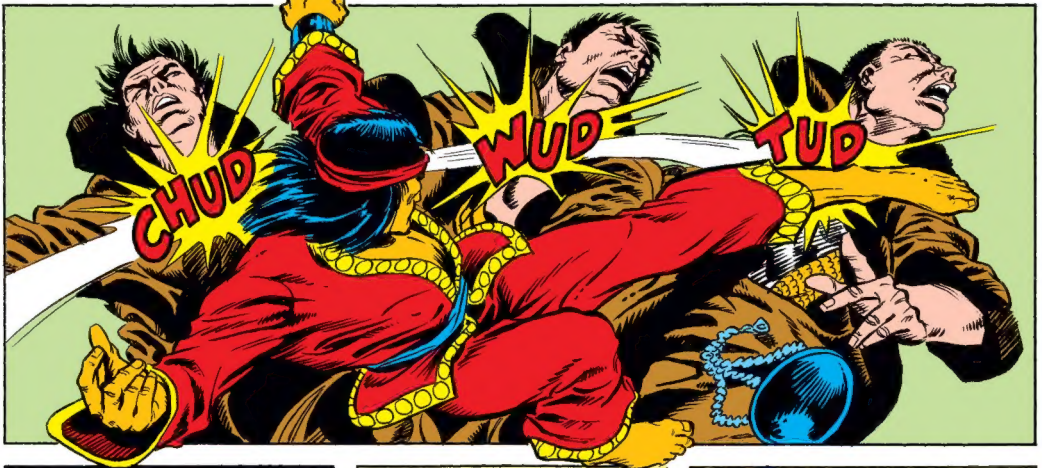


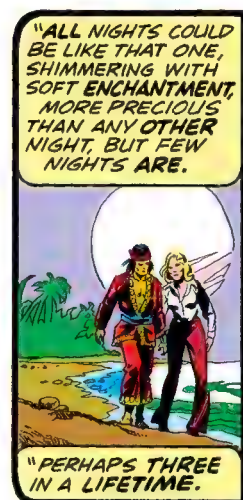
"...WHERE THREE FALSE PRIESTS BLOCK THE FINAL STAIRWAY, LEADING TO AN ALTAR ON WHICH SITS THE TRUE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE."

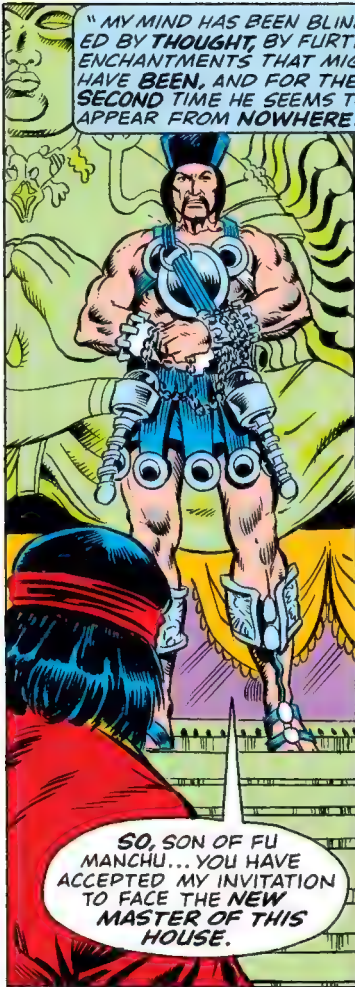
"THE THREE POSE THE LAST TEST OF THREE."

I AM READY FOR YOU.

"THERE IS ONLY THE UNHEARD HISS OF BREATH WITHIN THE SHADOWS OF THEIR COWLS."

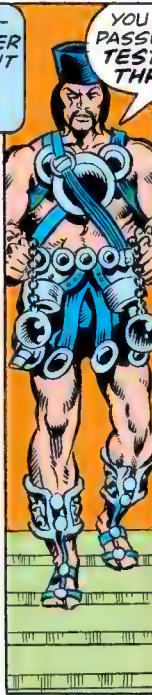




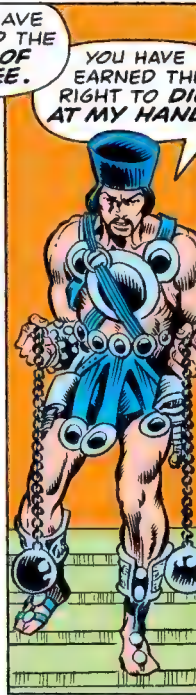


"MY MIND HAS BEEN BLIND-ED BY THOUGHT, BY FURTHER ENCHANTMENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, AND FOR THE SECOND TIME HE SEEMS TO APPEAR FROM NOWHERE.

SO, SON OF FU MANCHU... YOU HAVE ACCEPTED MY INVITATION TO FACE THE NEW MASTER OF THIS HOUSE.



YOU HAVE PASSED THE TEST OF THREE.

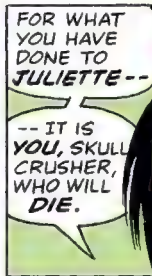


YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO DIE AT MY HANDS.



SHALL WE BEGIN?

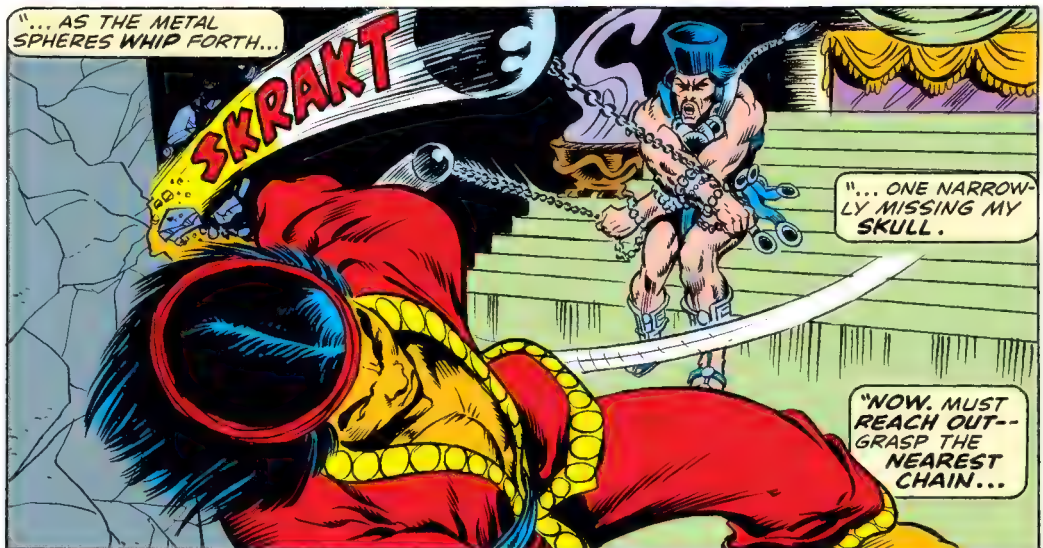
WHUU
FF



FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO JULIETTE--

-- IT IS YOU, SKULL CRUSHER, WHO WILL DIE.

"MY RAGE CAN MOUNT NO HIGHER, BUT HE SAYS NOTHING...



"... AS THE METAL SPHERES WHIP FORTH...

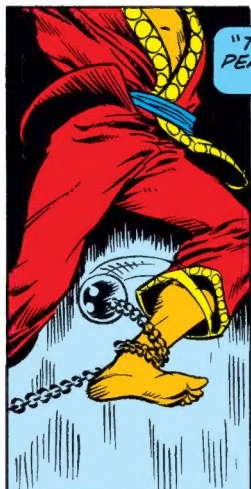
SKRAKT

"... ONE NARROWLY MISSING MY SKULL.

"NOW. MUST REACH OUT-- GRASP THE NEAREST CHAIN...



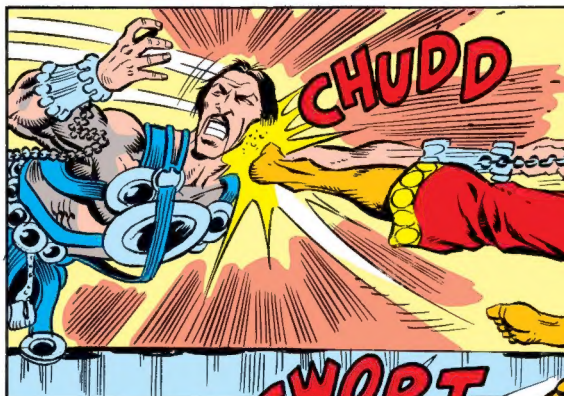




"THERE IS A HIGHER
PEAK OF RAGE WITHIN
ME..."

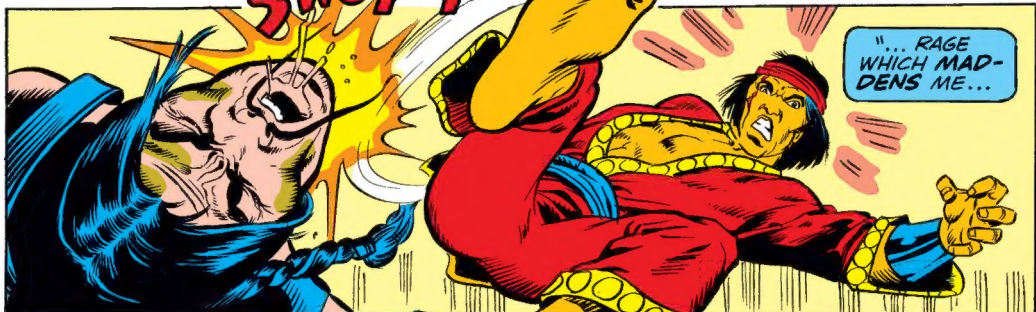


CHUNK



CHUDD

"... RAGE SUCH AS I HAVE NEVER FELT
BEFORE..."



SWOFT

"... RAGE
WHICH MAD-
DENS ME..."



"... AND RAGE WHICH BUILDS
EVEN MORE--UNTIL I AM NOW
CONVINCED THAT I WILL AC-
COMPLISH WHAT I CLAIMED
TO SEEK..."

"... WHAT I
NEVER TRULY
BELIEVED I
COULD DO."



"I WILL SLAY HIM."

FWAK



"SLAY HIM!!"

HWOK

"ONE MORE --
JUST ONE MORE --
THE KILLING BLOW
AND --"



"WAIT! HOW DID HE
KNOW? HOW DID HE
KNOW THAT THE
ONLY REASON I
CAME TO FIGHT HIM
-- TO SLAY HIM --"

"-- IS THAT I
NO LONGER HAVE
ANY REASON?"

STOP!

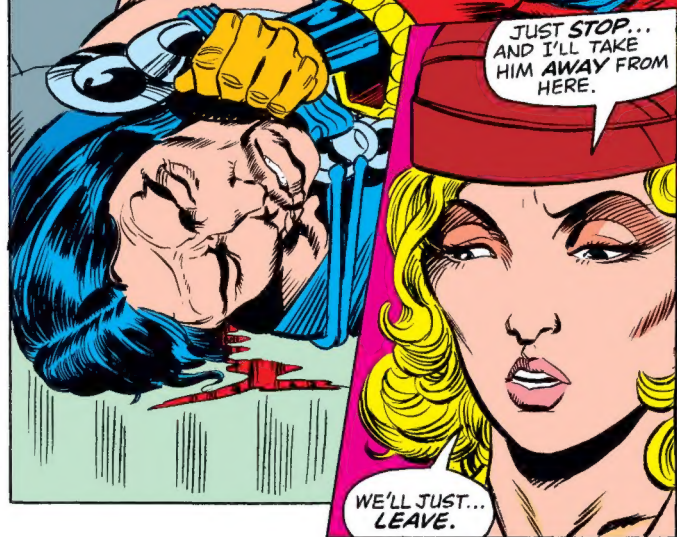


JULIETTE--?

PLEASE,
SHANG-CHI...
STOP.

JUST STOP...
AND I'LL TAKE
HIM AWAY FROM
HERE.

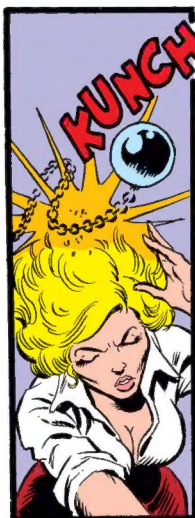
"SHE... DID NOT
REPLY..."



WE'LL JUST...
LEAVE.

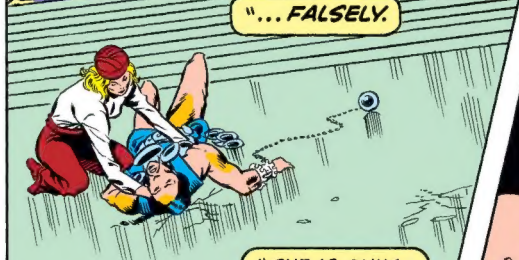


"BUT... IT WAS
NECESSARY..."





"... FALSELY.



"SHE IS ONLY...
HUMAN.



"PERHAPS SHE WEEPS, NOT SO MUCH FOR
HIM... BUT BECAUSE SHE KNOWS IT.



THE TEMPLE IS
OURS AGAIN?

YES.



YOU SEE? WE KNEW
THE TRUE MASTER WOULD
SEND SOMEONE TO RESTORE
HIS HOUSE TO US. THE YOUTH
DID COME TO SERVE OUR MASTER.



"NO.



NO... I
WAS TOO
WEAK...
ONLY
HUMAN.

OH?



OR PERHAPS... I
WAS IN LOVE.

"BUT NOW... IT IS
TIME TO DESCEND
... TO LOWER
HEIGHTS."